

# Injury Fact Sheet—Construction



## Roofers—Fall Injuries

406 roofers were seriously injured in falls from roofs, ladders or other elevated surfaces in the years 2000-2004



These injuries were so serious, the workers had to take time off work to recover, or in some cases were permanently disabled. These serious injuries are costly and affect your industrial insurance premiums. They contribute to the reason for the base rate of \$5.25 per hour per employee paid by roofing contractors in 2006. If your company has a higher than average number of injuries (claims), your “experience rating” can increase by as much as 25% in one year to \$6.55 per hour per employee for 2006.

Stated in another way, if you had 5 full-time roofers and had an average rate of injuries (claims), you would pay about \$52,400 in premiums in 2006. If your experience rating increased by 25% because you had higher than average injuries, you would pay about \$13,100 more or \$65,500 in premiums in 2006.

### Causes of fall injuries

Roofers typically fall off roofs from inattention and because they do not have fall protection in place or in use.



This..



Not this!

Roofers fall off ladders for a variety of reasons, including climbing up ladders while carrying roofing material or tools, slipping on the rungs, or the ladder is not secure at the base and the top and it moves or falls.

### Ways to prevent fall injuries

For most roofing jobs, personal fall protection (harness and lanyard) is the best way to prevent falls. On large roofs, guard rails can be used. Fall protection is required for all roof work above 10 feet.

For roofer training on fall protection, see our roofing fall protection [training kit](#).

To prevent falls from ladders, the following should be done:

- Don't climb ladders with roofing materials or equipment, have both hands free
- Secure the ladder at the bottom and top
- Make sure the ladder extends at least 3 feet above the roof line.
- Make sure the ladder is in good repair and keep it clean when using it.